NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

October 25, 1996

DINOSAURS OF THE FLAMING CLIFFS Lecture and Book Signing

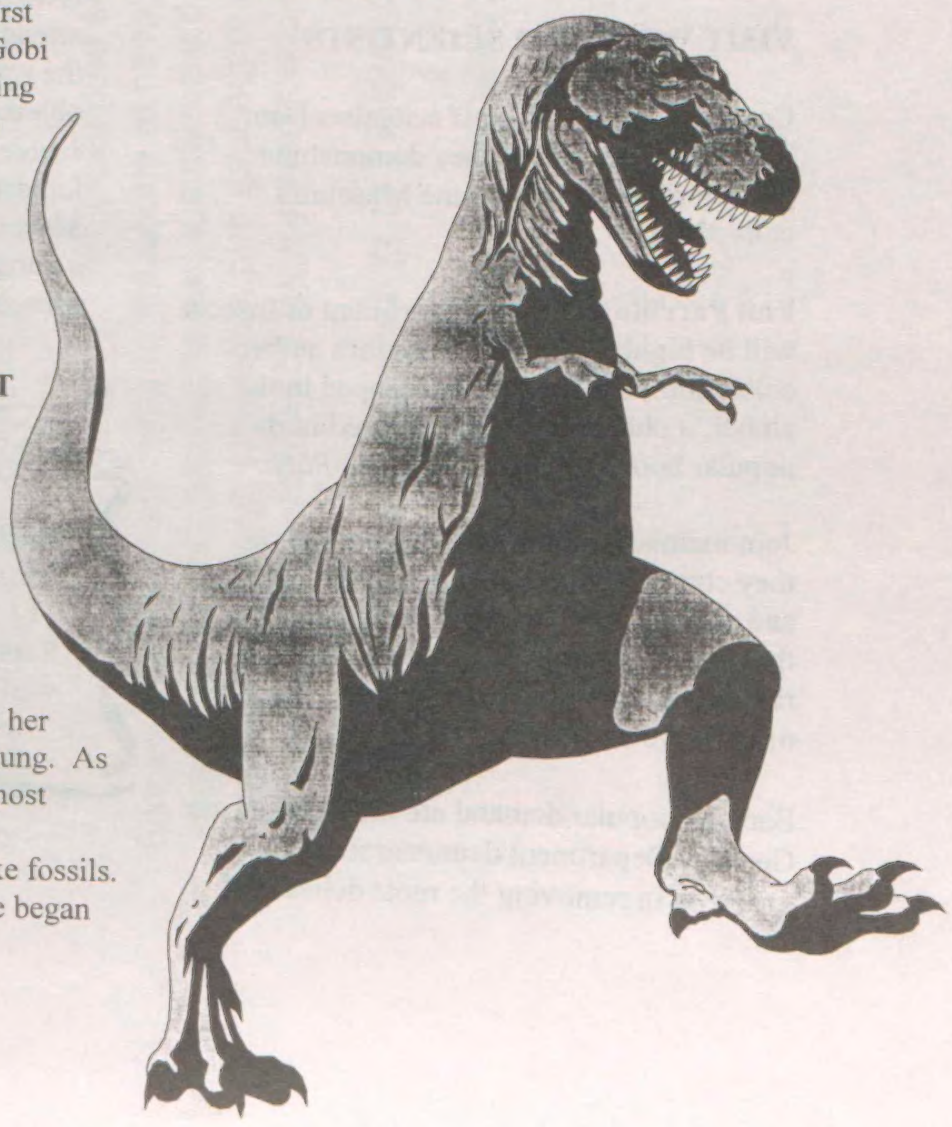
Friday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Montgomery Ward Hall

As part of the **Dinosaurs and More Festival,** the Department of Education is hosting Michael Novacek, Vice President and Dean of Science, as well as Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History. Novacek will deliver a lecture on his new book, Dinosaurs of the Flaming Cliffs. He led the first expedition in seventy years in the Gobi Desert, unearthing a series of startling and historic fossil finds. Tickets to the lecture are free for staff and volunteers; guests may purchase tickets at the door. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.

WHAT THE DINOSAURS LEFT US: DECIPHERING DINOSAUR DIETS
Karen Chin

Saturday, October 26
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
James Simpson Theater

Join Karen Chin for a lecture about her area of study: coprolites, or fossil dung. As a child she was most intrigued by most subjects in natural history, but not particularly by "old dead things" like fossils. Her view changed rapidly when she began working for Jack Horner at the Museum of the Rockies in Montana. Her work there led her to specialize in finding the clues to past life in the most unique type of fossils. Chin's work includes analyzing dinosaur coprolites and searching for molecular biomarkers in a variety of coprolites. Her interest in these fossils has opened up a new chapter in the field. The only recognized expert in the field of studding coprolite, Karen will bring her enthusiasm and expertise to the Field Museum as part of the "Festival" events.



DISCOVERY EXPEDITIONS

James Kirkland
Saturday, October 26; 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
James Simpson Theater

Join James Kirkland for an entertaining lecture about his work and discoveries, including **Utahraptor** in the dinosaur triangle of Colorado and Utah. As a paleontologist with the Dinamation International Society in Fruita, Colorado, he oversees participant-funded dinosaur research in one of the richest dinosaur fossil areas in the United States. His work has been highlighted in professional papers and presentations to ABC TV's **Good Morning America** program. His most recent publication was *Star Trek: First Frontier* a science-fiction story he co-authored that puts the crew of the Enterprise back in the time of the dinosaurs.

VISIT WITH OUR SCIENTISTS

Come and visit with staff scientists from The Field Museum as they demonstrate prehistoric objects from the Museum's collections.

Phil Parrillo from the Department of Insects will be highlighting the Museum's amber collection. Look at insects trapped in the amber, a phenomenon that figured in the popular book and movie *Jurassic Park.*

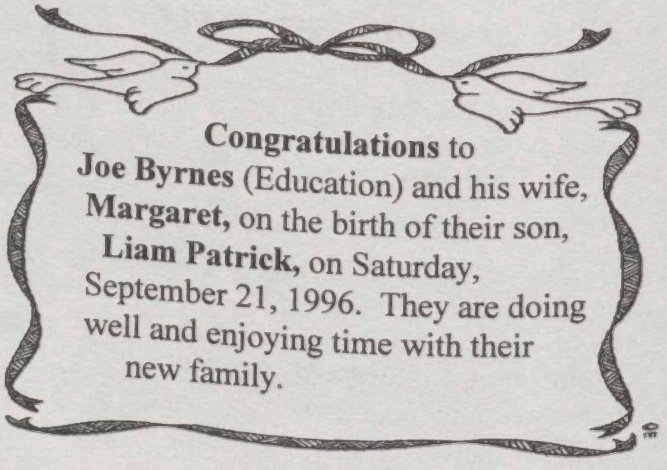
Join members of our Bird Department as they compare modern birds to the dinosaurs and see why many paleontologists believe that the dinosaurs did not go extinct but rather evolved in the many exciting varieties of birds we see today.

Back by popular demand are members of our Geology Department demonstrating their expertise in removing the most delicate of bones from the rock matrix that surrounds them. Utilizing skills perfected over many years, they expertly pick away at what appears as solid blocks of stone to expose the prehistoric treasure hidden inside.

Just how big is **big?** Other members of our Geology Department will be highlighting some of the "larger" prehistoric objects in the Museum's collection.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

In her role as Chair of the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums, Registrar **Janice Klein** (Anthropology) attended the Western Museums Association Annual Meeting last week in Salt Lake City. In addition to attending sessions on filming in museums, the use and care of sacred and religious objects, and digital imaging of collections, Janice also viewed the exhibition, "The Landscape Remembers" at the Utah Museum of Natural History, which includes a number of objects on loan from the Field Museum collections.



Congratulations to **Joe Byrnes** (Education) and his wife, **Margaret,** on the birth of their son, **Liam Patrick,** on Saturday, September 21, 1996. They are doing well and enjoying time with their new family.

MUSEUM CAMPUS DAY CARE?

Next meeting: Friday, November 1 at 12 noon in Classroom 1

Last Friday a group of over twenty-five concerned FMNH co-workers met to discuss the logistics of making child care available to the staff and volunteers of The Field Museum and/or the entire museum campus. Top managment has expressed interest in the idea. If you are interested in contributing your ideas or concerns, or if you have experience with day care programs, please join us at the next meeting.

Questions? Call **John Wagner**, Education (x395) or **Caroline Wiecking**, Exhibits (x687).

FIELD MUSEUM CHILD CARE QUESTIONNAIRE

Last Friday a group of over twenty-five concerned FMNH co-workers met to discuss the logistics of making child care available to the staff and volunteers of The Field Museum and/or the entire museum campus (Field, Adler, Shedd, Art Institute). Museum President John McCarter has expressed interest in the idea, but much work must be done to determine its feasibility. Please complete this preliminary questionnaire to give us an indication of your interest level and ability to help make this a reality.

1. Whether or not you have children, do you feel that on-site child care should be available for museum staff and volunteers? _____

2. If you have children, how many?_____ How old are they?_____

3. Are your children currently in a day care program?_____

   What do you like best about your current child care arrangement?

   What do you like least about your current child care arrangement?

4. Would you consider using FMNH/ Museum Campus child care?_____

5. What aspects of an on-site child care program would encourage your use?

   Discourage your use?

6. Would you be willing and able to devote some of your time to making child care a reality at this institution and/or on the museum campus? _____

7. Do you have personal experience or knowledge in setting up such a program? Or do you know someone who does?

8. Do you know of any other organizations who have successfully started a child care program?

   Do you know someone there we could contact?

9. If you could send your child(ren) to your dream child care program, what would it be like?

(Optional) Name:_____

Dept:_____ Ext: _____

The next meeting will be Friday, Nov. 1 at 12 noon in Classroom 1. Questions? Call **John Wagner,** Education (x395) or **Caroline Wiecking** (x687).

Please return this questionnaire by Wednesday, Oct. 30 to:

DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS!
Mail Order Form - Fall Season 1996
Field Museum-Natural History

Field Museum-Natural History employees may now order Discount Movie Tickets !

The CORPORATE MOVIE CLUB Mail Order Program enables you to order discount movie tickets through the mail for any of the six national chains listed below. Discount tickets are pre-paid tickets that can be purchased at a significant savings from the regular box office price, and can be used at any of the chain's locations nationwide, any hour of the day, seven days a week. Tickets will be mailed within 3 weeks of our receipt. You may order as many tickets as you like (in multiples of 4), and tickets are valid for approximately one year from the date of receipt. The following restrictions apply: Sony tickets are not valid during the first 10 days of a first run engagement. Cineplex Odeon tickets are not valid during the first two weeks of a first run engagement. General Cinema-Kids tickets are valid for children 12 and under.

To order:
(1) circle the ticket quantities desired and fill in the address information below
(2) make one check or money order payable to Corporate Movie Club for your total ticket order amount
(3) include a self-addressed, stamped, regular sized envelope along with your check or money order
(4) mail **by Dec. 31, 1996** to: Corporate Movie Club, 333 Washington Street, # 851, Boston, MA 02108

RUSH DELIVERY NOW AVAILABLE!
You may now phone in your order toll free (800-565-3712), order by credit card (Visa, MC, AMEX) and tickets will be mailed within 48 hours (additional $2 fee applies).

Sony / Loews: ($4.50 each plus 50¢ service fee per ticket)

4 tickets .....$20.00 8 tickets .....$40.00 12 tickets .....$60.00 16 tickets $80.00

Cineplex Odeon: ($4.50 each plus 50¢ service fee per ticket)

4 tickets .....$20.00 8 tickets .....$40.00 12 tickets .....$60.00 16 tickets $80.00

General Cinema: ($4.50 each plus 50¢ service fee per ticket)

4 tickets .....$20.00 8 tickets .....$40.00 12 tickets .....$60.00 16 tickets $80.00

General Cinema - Kids Tickets: ($2.75 each plus 50¢ service fee per ticket)

4 tickets .....$13.00 8 tickets .....$26.00 12 tickets .....$39.00 16 tickets $52.00

Name_____

Address_____

City State Zip_____

Day Phone_____ Date_____

Please mail order form with one check and a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

CORPORATE MOVIE CLUB
333 Washington Street, Suite 851
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 720-2277

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

CHERNOFF LAUNCHES FIRST AQUARAP IN BOLIVIA

Associate Curator **Barry Chernoff** (Zoology) just returned from leading a five-week AquaRAP trip to the tri-national border area of Bolivia, Peru and Brazil. Conservation Ecologist **Robin Foster** and Director **Debby Moskovits** (both from Environmental and Conservation Programs) also participated on the trip, surveying plants and helping with management and coordination (respectively). Like the terrestrial Rapid Assessment Programs (RAP), AquaRAP is conducted in collaboration with Conservation International. Funded by the W. Alton Jones Foundation, AquaRAP was formed to advance urgently-need conservation focus on the largely neglected aquatic ecosystems. These extremely productive systems are critical not only for the survival of their flora and fauna, but also for the well-being of people who live along the rivers and depend on them for most of their food. AquaRAP focuses on the entire basin, and defines the habitats relevant to aquatic conservation as those inundated at least once every 50 years. These areas of inundation are among the most critical for recruitment of fishes and aquatic invertebrates. AquaRAP already is attracting attention beyond South America, with possibilities in Africa. Barry also discussed the AquaRAP protocols at a meeting in Hungary in August, raising the possibility of European and Asian AquaRAPs, with modified protocols to fit the ecologies of these regions.

The first AquaRAP trip represented a successful tri-national collaboration, with the principal scientists coming from Bolivia, Peru, Brazil and the U.S., and also from Paraguay and Venezuela. Barry convened an AquaRAP Steering Committee who met here at the Museum last year, and developed protocols and criteria for the evaluation of aquatic communities for conservation purposes. These protocols were tested in the waters of the Tahuamanu and Manuripi rivers, in Bolivia, where close to 250 species of fish were recorded (with at least four new to science). The team's preliminary recommendations, based on the tremendously high productivity and diversity of the rivers, included a core protected area to serve as a safe zone for the flora and fauna, surrounded by broader protected zones where fishing for local consumption is allowed and where sustainable use of resources -- including the potential use of fishes for the aquarium industry -- is encouraged as economic alternatives for the devastating cattle industry. In a river village near the Tahuamanu, the scientists talked to a local mayor who was eager to implement these recommendations. The final AquaRAP report will be distributed to government and non- government organizations in Bolivia.

ZANGERL TO RECEIVE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD

Curator Emeritus **Rainer Zangerl** (Geology) will be awarded the 1996 Presidential Citation by the Paleontological Society on October 29. The award recognizes Rainer's long and outstanding career in paleontology. Rainer will be the first recipient of this new award for the Paleontological Society.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

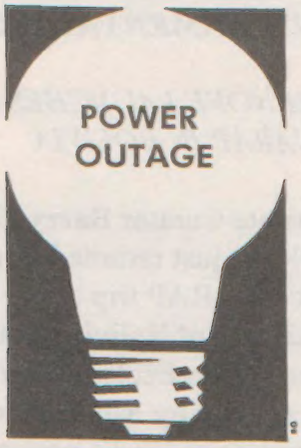
CRANE RETURNS

Vice President, Academic Affairs **Peter R. Crane** has just returned from giving two invited lectures overseas. He gave an invited lecture at the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Melbourne Botanic Garden, and also gave invited presentations at the German Botanical Congress in Duesseldorf and the annual meeting of the Swiss Academy of Sciences in Zürich.

GOOD-BYE and THANKS for the photographic memories. It's been a rich fourteen years. Best wishes to all.

Diane Alexander White

PARKING PASSES ON SALE NOW! IN VISITOR SERVICES



Monday, November 4 -
Thursday, November 7

12:00 midnight - 7:00 a.m.

Important maintenance work will necessitate shutting down power in the Museum during the first week of November. Did you fill out the "Critical Equipment" survey published in the September 13 edition of the *Natural News*? Engineering will be supplying an alternative power source to those who have equipment which absolutely cannot be without power. If you have such equipment, and forgot to turn in your "Critical Equipment" survey, please contact **Andy Pavasars** in Facilities Planning and Operations (x380).

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS: The expected completion date of the new Women's Board and Tours offices is now October 31. Work on the new Visitors' Services area continues and should be completed by the end of November. After the old Visitors' Services area near the south door is vacated, work will begin to construct the new Special Events area. The flower beds on McFetridge are being readied for winter and next year's landscaping contract is being bid.

The new Special Exhibit Hall is progressing, with the completion of plumbing work this week and the final delivery of the structural steel. Work on the mechanical room continues with completion expected by November 1 -- which should permit full use of Hall 10 (Northwest Coast Indians) again. Questions? Call **John Mazza** (x380) or **Carolyn Klyce** (x642).